

Members are advised that the text should be available for their review on both the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Rules Web sites by Friday, March 28.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted in the most appropriate format. Members are also advised to check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the Rules of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 735, THE POSTAL CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM FUNDING REFORM ACT OF 2003

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules may meet next week to grant a rule which could limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 735, the Postal Civil Service Retirement System Funding Reform Act of 2003.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy with a brief explanation of the amendment to the Committee on Rules in H-312 of the Capitol by 4 p.m. on Monday, March 31. Members should draft their amendments to the bill as ordered by the Committee on Government Reform on March 6. Members are advised that the text should be available for their review on the Web site of the Committee on Rules later today.

Members should use the Office of the Legislative Counsel to make sure that their amendments are properly drafted in the most appropriate format. Members are also advised to check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with the Rules of the House.

LAYING ON THE TABLE H. RES. 152

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that House Resolution 152 be laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the judicial conferees on S. 151 may be announced later.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I take this time for the purpose of inquiring of the schedule of the distinguished majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), and I yield to the majority leader.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the House will convene on Monday at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. We will consider several measures under suspension of the rules. A final list of those bills will be sent to Members' offices by the end of the week. Any votes called on these bills will be rolled until 6:30 p.m. on Monday.

On Tuesday, we expect to consider several additional bills under suspension of the rules, including legislation that will provide relief from student loan payments to our men and women currently serving in the Middle East. We would also hope to go to conference on the 2004 budget resolution.

For Wednesday and the balance of the week, we have several measures that we will consider under a rule. Those include H.R. 522, a bill to reauthorize the Federal Deposit Insurance Program; H.R. 735, which would alter the method used to calculate Postal Service contributions to the Federal Employee Pension System; and H.R. 743, the Social Security Protection Act.

Finally, next week, we hope to be considering the Fiscal Year 2003 War Supplemental that was requested by the President earlier this week. I believe that the Committee on Appropriations has tentatively scheduled a markup of this legislation for Tuesday.

Now, Members should be aware, while I remain hopeful that we could consider this legislation on the floor on Thursday, I know that this schedule would disrupt the traditional 3-day layover practice by the Committee on Appropriations, but if the supplemental is not available for floor consideration on Thursday, Members should be advised we would be in session next Friday to consider this very important bill.

I thank the gentleman for yielding. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his information.

Following up on what he said at the end of his statement, am I to understand that if the supplemental is passed on Thursday, it is the gentleman's expectation we will not be in next Friday?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, the gentleman is correct. If we can get the supplemental passed by the House by Thursday, we would not be in on Friday. But Members need to be advised that the President has asked the bipartisan leadership to try to get the supplemental to his desk before the Easter break, and we have to get it done next week in order to accomplish that.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

I would say to the distinguished majority leader, having talked to the ranking member and former chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), I think if we can reach a bipar-

tisan agreement, we too want to make sure that we provide the appropriate resources for our men and women in harm's way to assure them that there is going to be no reluctance on our part to accomplish that effort. But I emphasize that my belief is that if we can reach a bipartisan agreement, and I am hopeful, I know the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) can accomplish that; and if the leadership would help in accomplishing that objective, I think that would be a worthy objective for our country and for this House.

The budget conference and conferees, does the gentleman know when they will be appointed? I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

We are hoping to go to conference and name conferees on Monday, if we can get the papers from the Senate. Right now we could have done it today, but we are waiting for the papers to come over from the other body, and they tell us it will be very difficult to get those papers to us by Monday. But if we can get everything straight, then we will go to conference on Monday. If not, we will have to wait until Tuesday.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Leader, the reason I was looking to staff, obviously, as the gentleman well knows, if we are not going to go in until 6:30 and we will probably do suspension bills that night, clearly, if we go to conference, a motion to instruct would be in order; and I think it would be our intention to offer such a motion.

Therefore, having notice at this juncture, or I understand the gentleman's not having specific knowledge of when the papers are going to come over, but I might say to the gentleman that if we can have some specificity, and apparently Tuesday we will have the papers, the gentleman is reasonably confident, perhaps we could agree that it would be then Tuesday so that on our side we could plan to have the motion to which we would be entitled ready and available at that time.

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Mr. DELAY. I thank the gentleman for his comment, Mr. Speaker. We want to make sure that the minority protects their rights and reserves their rights to proceed to a motion to instruct.

My assumption is that we will have what we need to go to conference on the floor of this House no later than Tuesday, and we have every anticipation that we will be going to conference on Tuesday, but we would like to go a day earlier. As the gentleman knows, there is a lot of legislation we would like to do in the next 2 weeks, and floor time is at a premium.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's view. I share that view. We want to try to get this done. I am going to ask him about the week following.